

FORUM: Human Rights Council (HRC)

QUESTION OF: Ending Conversion Therapy: Enhancing the Protection of LGBTQ+ Individuals from Harmful and Pseudoscientific Practices

SUBMITTED BY: Egypt

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, China, Hungary, India, Italy, Jordan, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela,

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

Extremely concerned about the continued use of conversion therapy around the world, in spite of the scientific and medical institutions' disapproval of it,

Understanding that LGBTQ+ people who are exposed to such practices suffer grave physical, mental, and emotional suffering,

Concerning that these practices frequently stem from negative cultural, societal, and religious prejudices that support discrimination against LGBTQ+ people,

Understanding that conversion treatment violates the fundamental principles of autonomy, freedom, and dignity outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Noting the necessity of all-encompassing international action to eradicate conversion therapy practices,

1. Calls for the integration of anti-conversion therapy measures into international frameworks by:
 - a) recognizing cultural and religious practices as integral to the identity and values of certain member states, and emphasizing the need for culturally sensitive approaches to psychological and spiritual counseling by:
 - i. respecting the sovereignty of nations to regulate such practices under their traditions and beliefs,
 - ii. distinguishing between harmful, coercive practices and voluntary, consensual interventions guided by professional standards,
 - b) encouraging the development of international guidelines to address issues related to sexual orientation and identity that:
 - i. reflect the diversity of cultural, religious, and ethical frameworks present among member states,
 - ii. ensure that any recommendations or regulations do not conflict with the moral and spiritual values of individual societies,
 - iii. promote the involvement of qualified professionals in the implementation of such measures,

- c) facilitating dialogue among member states to foster mutual understanding and cooperation by hosting regional and global forums to discuss culturally appropriate approaches to addressing matters of sexual orientation and identity,
 - d) including the perspectives of religious leaders, cultural representatives, and mental health experts in policy discussions,
 - e) creating an inclusive platform where nations can share best practices without fear of judgment or external pressure,
 - f) supporting the inclusion of mechanisms in international frameworks that:
 - i. allow Member States to adapt and apply measures in ways that align with their domestic policies and public health priorities,
 - ii. respect the principles of informed consent and individual autonomy while safeguarding cultural heritage,
 - iii. provide avenues for states to offer alternative practices consistent with their values, where appropriate;
2. Encourages the World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct a controlled clinical trial for the testing of the conversion therapy and any pseudoscientific practices that were used to harm people by following some regulations so that the rights of any people won't be violated such as:
- a) with the patient's consent, the World Health Organization (WHO) will monitor the testing procedure so that it can be proven whether it is effective
 - b) joining the experiment will be voluntary so nobody will be forced to participate in it and the ones who want to join will be examined by the doctors both physically and mentally to avoid any misunderstandings and complications,
 - c) the implementation of conversion if it is found to be working and effective by the mentioned medical teams and allowing only the ones who are educated by the UN to implement the procedure;
3. Urges for strict regulations on the conversion therapy centres including:
- a) requesting consent forms which involve the signature and consent of the patients who are going to have conversion therapy,
 - b) monitoring of the personnel and medical workers by:
 - i. ensuring that they have adequate experience with conversion therapy and its implementations,
 - ii. organising World Health Organization (WHO) monitored regular online education meetings to teach and educate the personnel about the implementation, equipment, and procedure during conversion therapy,
 - iii. strictly banning the possession of compressive equipment or any equipment or weapon that physically harms or threatens patients such as guns in the medical facilities which does conversion therapy,

- c) regulating and assigning local government workers to monitor and check the sanitation of the equipment used in the facilities and the overall cleanliness of the operating rooms;
4. Asks for attempts to impose international standards on LGBTQ+ issues, including conversion therapy, by:
- a) upholding the sovereign right of Member States to decide on LGBTQ+ issues without external influence,
 - b) denouncing the efforts of international organizations to create "universal" standards for the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals,
 - c) opposing the use of international mechanisms to force Member States to pass LGBTQ+-affirming legislation;
5. Suggests that Member States support alternative viewpoints on LGBTQ+ issues by:
- a) funding studies on treatments or interventions that help people who want to conform to traditional gender and sexual roles,
 - b) creating public campaigns that highlight how LGBTQ+ people can coexist with traditional values while promoting conformity to social norms,
 - c) providing funding to groups that support the maintenance of traditional family structures,
 - d) fostering a fair public conversation about LGBTQ+ and conversion therapy issues by:
 - i. making sure that positive testimonies and viewpoints are included in media portrayals of conversion therapy,
 - ii. preserving the freedom of religious, cultural, and traditional groups to express their opinions on human sexuality without interference,
 - iii. supporting educational programs that accommodate a range of gender and sexual identity interpretations;
6. Asks for attempts to impose international standards on LGBTQ+ issues, including conversion therapy, by:
- a) upholding the sovereign right of Member States to decide on LGBTQ+ issues without external influence and respecting national beliefs,
 - b) denouncing the efforts of international organizations to create "universal" standards for the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals,
 - c) opposing the use of international mechanisms to force Member States to pass LGBTQ+-affirming legislation.